

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY China/USSR

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. Soviet Activities in Sinkiang
2. Conditions in Southern Sinkiang

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Soviets in Sinkiang Province

1. Although outwardly Sinkiang Province is dominated by and forms a part of Communist China, it is in reality supervised by the Soviet Union, although Russians are in evidence only in connection with hospitals, and with engineering projects such as road-building and mining.
2. The USSR controls the fertile Ili and Altai regions¹ and has constructed a number of secret military installations in the mountains. There are also secret installations in the Chuguchak (N 46-45, E 82-57) area which employ many laborers under army control, but the product made in them is not known. There is little movement of people in these areas, and persons wishing to visit them must obtain a special entry card which is issued only in exceptional circumstances.²

Road Construction

3. In the fall of 1952 the road which the Soviets were building with the assistance of the Chinese Communists from Przheval'sk (N 42-30, E 78-24), Kirghiz SSR, to Khotan (N 37-07, E 79-55) via Ak'osu (N 41-08, E 79-56) and the Takla Makan Desert (N 39- , E 83-), was half finished. About 45,000 men, three-fourths of whom were prisoners or forced labor, were working night and day on this road and on its extension from Khotan to Tibet.³ Until recently the Soviet Russians used a roundabout road from Kuldja (N 43-55, E 81-14) to Kashgar (N 39-29, E 75-58) which passed through the Kazakh SSR and Kirghiz SSR and reentered Sinkiang either by the route from Atbashi (N 41-10, E 75-50) to Kashgar or via Gulcha (N 40-15, E 73-30) and Sufi Kurghan (N 40-02, E 73-30).⁴ The new route is more direct and is hidden in the mountains, making for easier transportation of war materials. The reason for the new road appears to be

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the recent move of Soviet factories to the areas of Ili, Altai and Chuguchak.⁵ The road would also permit the movement of Soviet troops to Tibet.

4. In 1952 the construction of a new road from Urumchi (N 43-48, E 87-35) to Khotan was started, but the road was not completed.⁶
5. The road from Turfaw (sic), Kazakh SSR, to Kashgar and Artash⁷ had been metaled by the fall of 1952. A railway line also connects the two places, so that communication has become easy (-5).

Mining

6. The Soviets have exploited the mines in the city of Arastan⁸ in the Ili area. Deposits of wolfram, coal and uranium have been found in the Altai region.
7. Uranium has been discovered in the Urumchi area.
8. A petroleum field has found in the Chuguchak and Karakondah (sic) area. The Soviets were also exploiting a gold mine in the Altai region.
9. From the mines in Survuloff (sic)⁹ 60 miles from Kashgar, the following mineral products were being obtained: petroleum, coal, copper sheets (sic) and lead.
10. Iron ores have been exploited in the Egskorovol (sic) area.
11. In the fall of 1952 the Soviets were exploiting a mine in the vicinity of Ulugh Chat (N 39-48, E 74-16), employing some 35,000 Sinkiangese who dressed like and resembled Russians.¹⁰ Each night material taken from this mine was transported to the USSR. This is not a gold mine but produces a sort of stone.¹¹

Aircraft Factory

12. A large aircraft factory has been constructed in a 32-kilometer area (sic) between the mountains near Tut'ungho (N 43-59, E 87-22). The area is restricted and under military control. Thousands of workmen are employed in this factory.¹²

Airfields

13. An airfield has been constructed at P'uli (N 37-17, E 75-14).
14. Russian engineers were brought for the construction of an airfield and a large number of buildings at Kara Kol (N 42-17, E 82-48).¹³

Trade

15. Imports to Sinkiang from the USSR in the fall of 1952 included sugar, cloth, matches, cigarettes, wine, sewing machines, tractors and bicycles. Sinkiang's exports to the USSR were silk, hides, and wheat.¹⁴
16. In the fall of 1952 there was much motor traffic between Sinkiang and the USSR, with the vehicles moving at night.
17. Cooperative stores have been set up in all parts of Sinkiang, and essential commodities imported from China proper and the USSR are cheap. Foodstuffs are obtainable only with permits issued by the government.¹⁵

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18. The currency recognized in Sinkiang is the kochu, said to be the price of eight sheep.
19. Private trade was still permitted in Sinkiang in the fall of 1952, but the taxes were extremely high.

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20. No one was permitted to keep any considerable amount of money on his person or in his home or place of business.

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Chinese Communist Troops

21. In the fall of 1952 the number of Chinese Communist troops in Sinkiang had increased. Private homes had been requisitioned to accommodate the surplus troops.¹⁸
22. There were two divisions stationed at Kashgar, including some Russian soldiers wearing karakul caps and speaking the Uzbek dialect. These men tended to keep apart from the others. The commanding officer was Aminov, a Uzbek.¹⁹

Chinese Communist Regime

23. The Chinese Communists recognize the following political groups in Sinkiang: Khansu (Chinese), Shewah (Almof), Solononevor²⁰, Taranchi, Uzbek, Kazakh, Kirghiz, Tatar, Tungan, and Tadjik.
24. In a single year US \$10,300,000 were collected for the armies in Korea by compulsory donations.²¹ No one has courage to oppose this system of collecting funds, which is expected to continue.
25. Travel documents are required for persons traveling from one town to another in Sinkiang Province (-2).
26. The only permitted route for pilgrimages to Mecca was via Peiping. Hajis who tried this route did not reach Peiping in time to make the pilgrimage, nor did they return to Sinkiang. Hajis who returned from Mecca by way of Pakistan were imprisoned for two months awaiting results of investigations.²²
27. In December 1952 a group of 70 persons, believed to be Moslems, who went to Peiping in connection with religious reforms, had not yet returned, nor had any word of them been received during their three-months' absence.
28. In the fall of 1952 the officials in Kashgar were as follows:²³

Chief of Police
Assistant Chief of Police
Governor
Chief Officer

Abdur Rahim, a Kashgari
Awak, a Chinese
Saifuddin, from Ili
Yakub Haji, from near Kashgar

Frontier Guards

29. The border of Russian Turkestan was completely closed on the Sinkiang side, crossing from one side to the other was not permitted.
30. The Soviets had put barbed wire along their frontier from the border of Afghanistan to Kyzyl Rabat (N 37-28, E 74-45), so that the border cannot be

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crossed on foot or on horseback. A barbed wire barrier has been set up across the paved road, so arranged that tampering with it turns on a bright light which alerts the border guards. The woods nearby have been cleared by burning.

31. Large hangars, capable of accommodating many planes, have been built from Karatash to Kazilrabash (sic).²⁴ Trenches have been dug and barbed wire set up. People have been fleeing from Russian Turkestan because of a food shortage in that area.

Comments

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1. [redacted] these areas [redacted] are the districts of which the chief cities are Kuldja (Ili) and Sharasume (Altai).

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2. [redacted] travel from southern Sinkiang to Kuldja and Chuguchak was closed.

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3. [redacted] 25X1

4. The road from Sufi Kurghan would presumably enter Sinkiang via Irkesh-tam. The Atbashi-Kashgar road would be the same as the Naryn-Kashgar road [redacted]

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5. [redacted] 25X1

6. [redacted] in January 1952 construction was begun on a highway from Urumchi to Karashar which was designed to shorten the route from Urumchi to southern Sinkiang.

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Comments

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7. This is probably Artush (N 38-58, E 76-50).
8. This is probably Arasan (N 44-59, E 81-04).

Comments

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9. This may be Sughluk (N 39-04, E 76-10). [redacted] petroleum, copper, iron, coal and lead deposits were then known in the general vicinity of Kashgar, although not in a single mining area.
10. [redacted] a Sino-Soviet company was prospecting in this area, employing 800 or 900 carefully screened laborers. [redacted] a reported 3,000 workmen employed in construction of some kind at Ulugh Chat.

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Comments

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11. [] the Ulugh Chat area contains deposits of copper, coal, iron, zinc, and petroleum. 25X1
12. [] a former Soviet aircraft factory at Tut'ungho, dismantled after 1942. 25X1
13. The coordinates have been supplied on the assumption that Kara Kol in Sinkiang was meant. It is possible that the reference is to Przheval'sk, formerly called Kara Kol [], but the presence of Soviet engineers in the Kirghiz SSR seems less worthy of mention. The same objection applies to Kara Kol (N 39-00, E 73-30) in the Tadzhik SSR. 25X1
14. [] 25X1
15. [] in the summer of 1952 ration cards were issued for flour only. 25X1
16. [] all stores had been nationalized. private business was discouraged. 25X1
17. [] 25X1
18. [] the arrival of large numbers of Chinese Communist troops in southwestern Sinkiang during the summer of 1952. 25X1
19. [] described Aminof, leader of the military unit in Kashgar, as a Turki from Artush. 25X1
20. The first three groups mentioned may be the Han (Chinese), Uighurs and Solons. [] the 1941 survey of the Sinkiang population indicate that the following groups are not recognized: Manchus, Mongols and Sibos. The omission of the Mongols is probably an error. 25X1
21. [] 25X1
22. []
23. []
- Comment 25X1
24. Karatash is at N 40-32, E 74-00. If "Kazilrabash" refers to Kyzyl Rabat, the distance between these points renders the statement somewhat improbable. 25X1
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